

Remarks

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject patent application are respectfully requested.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge that claims 1-5 and 10-17 are allowed. Claims 1 and 2 have been amended to change the language "is composed of" to --comprises--. Applicants believe claims 1 and 2 continue to be allowable. Claim 7 has been amended as kindly suggested by the Examiner. The dependency of claim 9 has been changed and this change is believed to render the antecedent basis issue noted in the office action moot. In addition to claim 9, the dependencies of claims 4, 5 and 7 have been changed. These claims continue to all ultimately depend from allowable claim 1 and are therefore believed to be allowable.

The subject matter of allowable claim 28 has been incorporated into claim 18 (with the exception of the word "multi-layer" to thereby avoid any antecedent basis issues). Claim 18 is now believed to be allowable. Claims 19, 20, 22-25 and 27 depend from claim 18 and are also believed to be allowable. Because generic claim 18 is allowable, Applicants respectfully request that claims 21 and 26 be reinstated in this application and allowed.

New claims 29-32 have been added. The subject matter of these new claims is fully supported by the original disclosure and no new matter is added. These new claims ultimately depend from allowable claim 1 and are therefore also believed to be allowable.

Because the above amendments place the subject patent application in condition for allowance, entry is believed to be appropriate and is respectfully requested.


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The pending claims are believed to be allowable and favorable office action is respectfully requested. Should any issues remain, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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By:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Michael J. Shea", written over a horizontal line.

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